

MINUTES
EDUCATION ADVISORY MEETING
TEXAS BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS
UT Thompson Conference Center
2405 Robert Dedman Drive
Room 3.102
Austin, Texas 78758
January 25, 2013 - 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER. Lance Kinney, P.E., Executive Director, Texas Board of Professional Engineers called the Education Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:03 am on January 25, 2013, at the UT Thompson Conference Center, 2405 Robert Dedman Dr., RM 3.102, Austin, TX. (All votes are unanimous, unless otherwise noted).

1. **Appointment of New Committee Chair.** Mr. Kinney commented that the previous Chair of the committee has stepped down and that nominations were requested for a new Chair. Dr. James “Jim” Nelson, P.E., responded that he would be interested and honored to be a nominee as the Chair of the Education Advisory Committee.

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Papamichalis /O’Neal) to approve the nomination of Dr. Jim Nelson, P.E., as the Chair of the Education Advisory Committee. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

After approval of nomination, Chair Nelson proceeded with the meeting.

2. **Introduction of Committee Members and Welcome Visitors.**

C. Mauli Agrawal, Ph.D.	Member
Panos Papamichalis, Ph.D., P.E.	Member
Victor Zaloom	Member
Dennis O’Neal, Ph.D.	Member
James Nelson, Ph.D., P.E.	Member
Gregory Fenves, Ph.D., P.E.	Member
David P. Shattuck, Ph.D.	Member
Mehdi Shadaram, PhD, PE	Member

Daniel O. Wong, Ph.D., P.E.	Board Member (visitor)
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3. **Public Comment.** None.

ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION

4. **Approve the minutes from March 23, 2012, Education Advisory Committee Meeting.**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Zaloom/O’Neal) to approve the March 23, 2012, Education Advisory Committee minutes as submitted. A vote was taken and the MOTION PASSED.

5. **Update on Issues from the Board. Mr. Kinney reported on the following:**

- **Legislative Session.** It is still early in the session and not many bills regarding engineering have been filed. A list of tracking items/key words is provided. At present time the Board is reviewing and tracking relevant bills. The bill that will be crucial to the Board is the Sunset bill which has not been filed yet.
- **Sunset Review Update.** The Board underwent review by the Sunset Commission regarding both the agency itself and the SDSI status. The review did not find anything substantive. The recommendations being made are to align with general practices. Mr. Kinney thanked the staff and Board members for all

their efforts and support through this process. Mr. Kinney reviewed the Sunset recommendation that was included as an exhibit. He will let everyone know who will be carrying the bill and where it is at as soon as it is filed. He added that the biggest change to the recommendations was moving the Board's review from six (6) to twelve (12) years.

A recommendation that has initiated a lot of feedback is the fingerprinting requirement. All new licensees as well as all current PEs will be required to comply with the fingerprinting requirement. Cost will be assumed by the licensee. The committee discussed possible costs and inactive status. Mr. Kinney added that bills sometimes get changed along the way, so he will wait to see what the final bill looks like to identify the impact on the agency and licensees. Dr. O'Neal requested that as the language comes out, all advisory committee members be notified. Information about SDSI status and the recommendation to continue was shared. Dr. Zaloom asked if the Board has considered placing the sanction penalty money towards a scholarship. Mr. Kinney responded that at this time, the language has already been written, but he will mention the idea.

- **Rule Changes.** The rule changes made were mostly clean-up and clarification changes. An exhibit outlining all the changes within the last year was provided as an exhibit.
- **Computer Based Testing (CBT).** Mr. Kinney reported that he has been working with NCEES for the last seven years on this project. CBT will start January 2, 2014, for all FE exams. The FE exam will be offered eight (8) months a year in four windows, with two months on, one month off (i.e. January and February on, March off, etc.). The exam has been shortened to 110 questions, and six (6) hour time frame which reduces the cost. There will also be more testing sites than before. The difference is the Pearson VUE have small test centers; exams will be offered on a first-come first-served basis but examsinees can schedule through the year. Mr. Kinney wanted to share this with the committee for them to consider in their programs and schedules, and there are still two (2) FE exams between now and the time CBT starts. It should be noted that while the CBT exam is shorter, it is not easier. The testing centers are open six (6) days a week, up to 12 hours a day. Applicants can only take the exam once per window but can take it throughout the year. Applicants receive their test scores in 2-3 days. Committee members discussed the availability of space for the exam; reports provided to universities regarding pass or fail rates vs. report by student performance which benefits the universities best; students may also take the exam anywhere, not only in Texas. Mr. Kinney asked the deans to call him with any additional questions and/or issues they would like to discuss.
- **BS+30.** NCEES Model Law become will come into effect in 2020. The future requirement is that all applicants for licensure will be required to have a Masters Degree in Engineering. Each Board has the option to adopt or not adopt the model law. At this time, Nebraska is the only state board that is looking at adopting the model law. This may affect current freshmen in college. Dr. Wong added that at one time, some states did consider adopting this model law.

PE/FE Exam Statistics. Mr. Kinney reviewed the statistics provided to the committee as an exhibit. Dr. Zaloom asked about Biomedical and Software Engineer stats. Mr. Kinney responded that at this time those exams have not been given.

Software Engineering. The exam will be offered for the first time in April 2013. The exam will not be a requirement at this time; software engineers take the PE exam and are licensed as PEs. Some states are waiting on Texas to follow their lead. Texas has approximately 60 software engineers licensed as PEs through waiver. One important point is that current software engineering students know that they should take the FE exam if they intend on taking the PE exam at some point in the future.

- **Engineers/Architect Update.** A Task Force was assigned to work through the overlap which they have done. The overlap issue has been resolved.

- **EWeek.** NCEES is co-sponsoring this year's EWeek. TBPE is also supporting the efforts and trying to spread the message. We will keep committee members informed of activities. Mr. Kinney reminded committee members to let the Board know if they would like someone from the Board to come out and speak to their students.
 - **Strategic Plan Update.** Mr. Kinney commented that this is a follow-up from last meeting during which input from committee members was solicited to assist with the Board's strategic plan. Input from the committees was gathered and incorporated into the Board's strategic plan. Staff is involved in making changes. The Board is also currently going through the Malcolm Baldrige quality criteria; at this time only one other state agency is going through the same criteria. The Board has been recognized two years in a row. Next year, the Board will be going through another phase of the quality criteria.
 - **On-line Application.** The process allowing PEs to conduct business and applicants to apply online is now in process. The second phase of this implementation is to allow additional documents to be submitted on line too.
 - **NCEES Video.** These videos instruct the applicants on how to submit their applications for taking the exams through NCEES. TBPE is looking at producing similar videos. Dr. Zaloom asked that videos regarding taking exam be shared with faculty and/or societies.
6. **Update on Advisory Licensing Task Force.** Dr. Nelson reported that the last joint meeting, the committee members voted to appoint a Licensing Task Force made of three (3) members from each committee to discuss and propose a point paper addressing and encouraging the licensing of faculty. The Task Force met and discussed this issue at length and developed a position paper. The paper was presented to the Board at the November 2012 meeting for their information and discussion. The proposal by the Task Force must be presented and carried by a society or group to propose legislative change as the Board cannot sponsor legislation and this is not an action of the Board. Committee members agreed that careful consideration to these changes regarding teaching experience in non-engineering topics to clarify that engineering topic is acceptable. The committee members discussed Ph.D. exemption of FE but taking the PE exam; the ability to still waive the PE exam with approved experience; this change would allow the Ph.D. to acquire their experience much faster.
 7. **Issues for discussion from Committee members.** The Committee members discussed about the possibility of moving the advisory committee meeting to the summer due to the Dean's meeting in November of each year.
 8. **Issues for discussion for the Joint Education, Government, and Industry Meeting.** The committee members would like to discuss faculty licensure, and future advisory committee meeting schedule.
 9. **Issues for consideration at next scheduled meeting.** The committee members would like an update on faculty licensure and Computer Based Testing.
 10. **Adjourn.**

It was MOVED/SECONDED (Zaloom/ Papamichalis) to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 am. A vote was taken, and the MOTION PASSED.

Date Committee approved as submitted:
Date Board accepted:

May 31, 2013
August 29, 2013